

THE DEPARTMENT WORKERS

Interesting Gossip Gleaned Among Employees of Government Bureaus.

A LOCAL MASTERPIECE ON HISTORIC SWASTIKA

Professor Wilson's Contribution to the World's Literature. To Prevent Telescoping of Railroad Trains by An Electrical Contrivance.

A class of Government officials with whom the general public seldom comes in contact, yet who give more time and labor to the work in their respective departments than any other employees, are the scientists who are attached to the National Museum. Among this number is Prof. Thomas Wilson, curator, department of prehistoric anthropology, who by his efforts has made his branch of the Museum a standard on the subject of man, his history and development.

Such time as Prof. Wilson has been able to spare from his department he has devoted to the compilation of valuable works on matters pertaining to his special branch of study, many of which have been published by the Government, and have been eagerly sought for by scientific men, not only of America, but of many foreign countries. Among his later works "The Swastika" holds a pre-eminent place on the list of the many contributions on the subject of this symbol, the history of which is lost in antiquity.

"The Swastika" is the most ancient form of the cross, and as a symbol is more widely diffused than any known to man. From Japan in the extreme East to the two Americas, this curious sign is found upon images, stone carvings, pottery, and various utensils and implements, the handwork of prehistoric man and his latter day successors. By the Buddhists it is claimed that upon the breast of Gautama, the beggar prince, who renounced a throne to become the savior of countless millions, this symbol was found at birth. In the pottery of the American Indians this symbol has formed the basis of the principal design, while in the mounds of Georgia and Tennessee Prof. Wilson has discovered copper plates bearing the same mysterious tracing.

Until recent years no work upon the subject had been forthcoming from the pen of an American scientific writer. Prof. Wilson, acting upon the principle of the Smithsonian Institution, "the diffusion of knowledge among men," took up the task and by deep research and arduous toil produced a volume devoted to the migration of this curious zig-zag cross, which work has been pronounced by his fellow laborers in the realms of archaeology and ethnology to be the most valuable addition to the scientific knowledge of the world.

Even to the laity this book is interesting and instructive, for the curious student gives a vast fund of information regarding the progenitors of our race.

An examiner in the Patent Office, speaking of the numerous railway accidents that, by reason of the loss of life entailed, have horrified the country time and time again, describes an appliance that proposes to eliminate from travel such danger due to collision. A Southern inventor who has made a study for years of the causes leading to railway disasters, and who is an expert electrician, has forwarded to the Patent Office the plans and specifications of a device that has been pronounced the most perfect of its kind ever invented.

Upon the tender of the locomotive is installed a motor run by a hand over one of the axles of the truck beneath. The rails form one loop of the circuit, while a wire laid over the centre of the truck completes the other.

An ingenious device connects the motor with the rails, and though the train be moving at a seventy-mile gait, the contact is continuous.

Placed in the cab of the engine is an incandescent lamp, which lights when two trains approach within a mile of each other. Should this signal be needed, after the train has run a quarter of a mile an automatic attachment to the airbrake is released and both trains will come to a stop within less than a quarter of a mile. Said the patent examiner:

"When the yearly loss to railways, due to wrecks, and the comparatively small cost of equipping trains with this device are considered, it would be safe to say that, should it fulfill the expectations of competent critics, it will be adopted throughout the country. Very likely Congress will take some action regarding its compulsory use, as it did in the case of a safety coupler some years ago."

Major F. T. Wilson, chief clerk, Adjutant General's Office, War Department, was a soldier of considerable experience during the war of the rebellion. The major is never so happy as when relating some remarkably funny incident that occurred during his army life in the West. While spinning a few good-natured yarns recently to a few friends, the major pronounced:

GOT ALL COMING TO HIM.

Young Man Fails to Make Advantageous Change in Coats.

NEW YORK, April 2.—A young man with a light spring overcoat left over from last year walked into the Hoffman House at noon yesterday, flustered out to the desk for a moment and then out to the hat and coat rack near the ladies' entrance, where he laid his coat down very carefully next to one owned by Emil Herz, who was at luncheon with Mrs. Herz.

The young man went into the dining room and was there about ten minutes. When he came out he picked up Mr. Herz's coat.

Now there was a young man named Peter Hoffman in charge of the coats and hats.

"That isn't your coat," he said to the young man.

"Oh, yes, it is," said the young man.

Hoffman seized Mr. Herz's coat. The young man punched Hoffman in the eye.

"Hoffman seen his duty and he done it," as the late Jerry Rusk would have said. He gave the sick young man a couple of beatings in the eyes, slammed him down and jerked him up a half dozen times, kicked him and then dragged him into the Fifth Avenue entrance and threw him into the gutter.

Hoffman then threw his hat and coat after him and he picked them up and ran up Broadway as if he were in haste.

Wax Toy Wins Romney Race.

WINDSOR, England, April 2.—Mr. R. Platt's Wax Toy, with "Skeets" Martin up, won the Romney Handicap of 102 sovereigns here today. Captain Greville's Popple, ridden by Purkins, finished second, and J. S. Harrison's Lynxmoob, with Aylin up, third. The odds against the winner were 6 to 1. Six horses ran.

Szigetvar Goes to Annapolis.

NORFOLK, Va., April 2.—The Austrian cruiser Szigetvar sailed at daybreak this morning for Annapolis. Later she will proceed to Baltimore and thence to New York. Captain Protopotik commands her.

Bears the Signature of

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought

CLAIMS RICH BREWER'S SON AS HER HUSBAND

Strange Woman From the West Says She Is Mrs. Fred Yungling.

YONKERS, N. Y., April 2.—Armed with a warrant for Fred Yungling, Jr., son of a New York brewer, a woman claiming to be his wife has appeared from out of the West, and court officers are searching for the young man, who seems to have disappeared on Saturday. The news that he is a married man has created a sensation.

Mr. Yungling has been living for some time at the home of Mrs. Wheeler, 62 Hawthorne Avenue, and has frequently been seen with Miss Leila Wheeler, said to be a daughter, but rumored in gossip to be "Bourgeois Blanc."

Mrs. Yungling, as she calls herself, declares that she married more than a year ago and, learning of her husband's presence here, obtained a warrant on a charge of abandonment. She came to Yonkers with a New York lawyer on Saturday to seek for her husband.

The woman did not divulge where she came from or when she was married to Yungling. She is of slight figure, comely, and stylishly dressed. She stated that she intended to stay here if possible until her husband was captured.

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"Are you sure that you have the bill?" asked Malini, the magician, who has been making Washingtonians for the past month and who was entertaining a small party of ladies and gentlemen in the Secretary's office.

"Sure," replied Secretary Shaw tightening his grip. "It's there all right."

"Ah, open your hand then," cried Malini and as the Secretary's digits relaxed his palm lay bare. He was mystified and so were Mrs. Shaw, Assistant Secretary Allen, and a number of others.

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MALINI DECEIVES SECRETARY SHAW

Chief of Treasury No Match for the Magician.

TEN-DOLLAR BILL MISSING

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